The Chosen Leader of Florsheim Shoes

(a comedy idea by Jonathan D. Steinhoff ©10.2.11)

It's 1975, and a 9-year old (played by Ben Stiller?) is at Century City Shopping Mall with his mother (played by Anne Meara?) when the two are approached by Three Wise Men.

"We are three wise men with whom God has spoken, and we've come to tell you of your son's destiny. Can we go sit and talk over there by the bench?"

"Wise men, really? Sure, okay, just so long as it doesn't take too long, see, I gotta take Ben for new pants."

"Because he tore his grey pants playing."

"But how could you-" Anne says.

"You forget – I told you, we spoke with God. Permit me to be brief. Your son has been chosen to lead the world out of its economic turmoil in the year 2011. It seems like a long way off, but someday, when Ben is a grown up, he will become the CEO of Florsheim Shoes."

"Florsheim, really? I love Florsheim! Ben, remember those shoes I bought for you? You probably don't," Anne says.

"Yes I do. I-I have a perfect memory of them, in fact! Perhaps it was because they felt so good…." Ben says.

"They do, they are very comfortable shoes. Is that it? Is that why you guys are here, to ask how we like Florsheim? We love them. They're terrific shoes," Anne says.

"That isn't it, exactly. No. We're trying to tell you: Ben will run Florsheim one day – could you please try to pay attention? We are not selling shoes. We're telling you Ben's destiny," says Wise Man 1.

Wise Man 2 speaks: "In contradiction to all known economic theory, the one place the world economy will most need a big injection will turn out to be the shoe industry. And until Florsheim enjoys super-great growth, brought about in 2011 by Ben, humanity will be powerless against the devastation brought about by worldwide economic collapse."

Wise Man 3 speaks: "Economics is much like a Rube Goldberg device, as, one thing affects another, which affects another, until-"

"I'm sorry to interrupt," Anne says, "But, so now, my son, Ben, is the chosen one, who will one day lead the world out of economic collapse by becoming the head of Florsheim Shoes?"

"Yes, and one day, a new religion will come into being to remind humanity that it was he who saved the world."

"He? You mean, Ben?"

"Ben."

"Hey mom, did you hear that? A religion!"

"Okay. So then why did you bother coming here to explain all this, if it's all pre-ordained I mean?"

"We, well, we, uh…."

"We just couldn't keep something like this to ourselves!"

"Could anybody? Can you blame us? We just wanted to let you know."

"Well, thank you! This is actually TERRIFIC news, isn't it, Ben? A religion and a shoe company?"

"Wow! Wait 'til I tell my friends!"

"We're so glad we were the lucky ones who got to tell you. Well, we must be going then."

"So nice to meet you! Uh, Ben? Where are your manners, young man?"

"Oh - nice meeting you, uh, three! This is SO great!"

"Bye!"

"Bye!"

"Bye!"

"Bye!"

The Three Wise Men go their separate way, talking excitedly amongst themselves, and Ben and Anne do the same, while continuing on to buy Ben new pants.

THE END